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COUNTRY

Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC

Military Information from Schwerin

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

early December 1951 to 11 January 1952

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

20 February 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 2 and 11 January 1952, the headquarters at the restricted Schlossgarten area, Schwerin (N 54/T 46), moved to the Goerries airfield. According to a rumor, all buildings in the Schlossgarten area would be turned over to the civilian population. Several private houses in the immediate vicinity of Goerries airfield were requisitioned again.

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2. On 27 December 1951, a unit of about 250 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and equipped with 8 x 76.2-mm field guns, 12 trucks, and 1 field kitchen, was loaded at the Schwerin freight yard. The unit came from the Hindenburg Kaserne on Guestrowerstrasse and, according to a railroadman, went to the Schweinrich (N 54/U 21) troop training grounds.

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3. In the evening of 27 December, one building of the Hindenburg Kaserne was observed to be unoccupied. From 450 to 500 troops were believed to be quartered in the other buildings of the installation. Twelve caterpillar tractors towing 100-mm AT guns, with eight soldiers riding on each vehicle, left the installation on 28 December. Intensive training, both individual and at the group level, with and without small arms, was observed in the barracks yard between 27 December 1951 and 2 January 1952.

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4. On 4 January, the southern section of the Fritsch Kaserne on Johann Stellingstrasse was occupied by an artillery unit; the northern section was occupied by a unit of soldiers who wore black-bordered black epaulets, some with signal insignia. Four 122-mm field howitzers and 200 to 250 drilling soldiers were observed in the barracks yard.

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5. On 7 January, the Moltke Kaserne on Ludwigsliesterstrasse was occupied by about 1,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Four 122-mm field howitzers and 10 armored half-track vehicles were observed in the barracks yard, where about 60 soldiers were engaged in close-order drill.

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6. On 7 January, the Krueger Kaserne on Ludwigslusterstrasse was occupied by about 1,200 troops. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets. There was much training activity, including small-arms drill at squad level. Six T-34/85 tanks and 5 SU-100 SP guns were seen in the barracks yard. From 600 to 700 troops received field training at the Grosser Dresch drill field.

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7. On 11 January, the Adolf Hitler Kaserne on Ludwigsluster Chaussee was occupied by 2,500 to 3,000 troops. Sentries wore black-bordered red epaulets. Four armored scout cars towing 37-mm A1 guns entered the installation coming from the direction of Stern-Ruckholz, while 700 to 800 troops, mostly unarmed, were drilling at squad level in the barracks yard.

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8. On 2 January, the Fritsch Kaserne on Johann Stellingstrasse was occupied by about 1,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery or motor transport insignia and black-bordered black epaulets, including some with signal insignia. Several adjacent private houses on Lischstrasse, Johann Stellingstrasse and Adam Scharrerstrasse were requisitioned and added to the billeting area between 20 December and 9 January. All quarters were fully lighted in the evening, with the exception of the northern wing of the northernmost barracks. This barracks housed primarily recruits who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery or motor transport insignia and black-bordered black epaulets, including some with signal insignia. Adjoining this building to the south there was an officers' mess, and another building also occupied by recruits who wore black-bordered black epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia. Source believed that a headquarters was located in the next four buildings farther to the south; he saw many officers with black-bordered red epaulets, red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered black epaulets, and numerous sedans there.

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9. On 7 January, the Hindenburg Kaserne on Guestrowerstrasse was occupied by about 1,000 troops. Most of the soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia but a few had motor transport and signal insignia, while some soldiers wore black-bordered black epaulets. One building in the southern section of the installation contained orderly rooms; another building, adjoining the above building to the north and facing Guestrowerstrasse, quartered primarily fully trained soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and signal insignia. Adjoining the building on Guestrowerstrasse to the west there was a mess building with billets on its upper floor. Adjoining the building to the north there were two buildings mostly occupied by recruits who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Troops observed between 2 and 7 January received close-order drill at platoon level and physical training. In early December 1951, was

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10. On 9 January, the Adolf Hitler Kaserne on Ludwigsluster Chaussee was occupied by about 2,200 troops, most of whom wore black-bordered red epaulets and a few who wore red-bordered black epaulets. All quarters were fully lighted at dusk. Between 20 December 1951 and 9 January 1952, intensive training activity was observed in the billeting area and on the adjoining drill ground. Close-order drill with and without arms was noticed in the billeting area, while troops on the drill ground practiced with 80-mm mortars, received field training at squad level, and practiced with telephone equipment. On four afternoons, ten groups, each of about 40 men wearing black-bordered red epaulets and equipped with about 16 submachine guns, 10 double-bitted pickaxes and spades, 4 range finders and 4 x 80-mm mortars, entered the Adolf Hitler Kaserne. At least 50 x 80-mm mortars were observed with the troops who were training. About 50 trucks were seen in the garages.

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11. On 3 January, the Hindenburg Kaserne on Gnestrowerstrasse was occupied by about 1,800 troops, most of whom wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and rocket launcher insignia. A few wore black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. Uniformed Russian women with red-bordered black epaulets were quartered in a building in the southern section of the installation. Adjoining this building to the north there was a building containing orderly rooms and classrooms and several other buildings occupied by soldiers, most of whom wore red-bordered black epaulets but some of whom wore black-bordered black epaulets. One of these buildings almost exclusively quartered recruits who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and rocket launcher insignia; and black-bordered black epaulets. On 4 January, 25 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and carrying luggage went to the railroad station carrying 25 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, came from the direction of Goerries airfield and drove into the barracks installation on 6 January. also occupied by 25 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and coming from the direction of Goerries, entered the billeting area on 8 January. On 10 January, 4 officers and 25 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets from the Hindenburg Kaserne boarded the regular Berlin-bound train which they left in Wittenberge (M 53/Y 79) to board another train going toward Wittstock (N 54/U 11). Between 1 and 8 January, training activities at the adjoining Werderholz drill ground included drill with and without rifles at squad level in the barracks yard, entrenching practice range estimation by groups up to 40 soldiers, practice with an 80-mm mortar and the stringing of telephone lines by soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets. Soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with rocket-launcher insignia were seen with all groups. The entire billeting area was brightly illuminated until taps

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12. Between 2 and 9 January, the DAF building at the intersection of Hagenowerstrasse and Ludwigslusterstrasse was vacated by the headquarters located there up to that date. Billeting equipment was hauled on trucks [redacted] to the Hindenburg Kaserne on Guestrowerstrasse. Trucks [redacted] hauled billeting equipment to Goerries airfield. The signboards were removed, and the sentry was no longer present. The telephone cables running toward Fauler See and to the Fritsch Kaserne on Johann Stellingstrasse were removed. A truck with civilians was seen in the yard of the DAF building.

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13. On 3 January, the barracks at Goerries airfield southwest of Schwerin were occupied to capacity by at least 2,600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and rocket-launcher insignia, and black-bordered black epaulets, including some with engineer insignia. All windows of the installation and of the three buildings on Ostorf Lake were brightly illuminated at dusk. Two new, low wooden buildings were seen at the southeastern corner of the airfield and at its northern border near Fabianhof respectively. Civilians were seen clearing debris from the airfield and a ruin at the southern perimeter of the field. Open wooden sheds, apparently to serve as garages, were constructed in the barracks yard. Training activities observed between 3 and 8 January included drill with and without arms in the billeting area, field training on the airfield, and firing with live ammunition at the rifle ranges. Three caterpillar tractors towing 100-mm AT guns were seen during the same period. [redacted]

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14. On 3 January, it was observed that the number of antenna masts belonging to the radio station at the southeastern corner of Goerries airfield, south of the billeting area, had been increased to eight. It was also noted that the telephone line from Goerries airfield to Ludwigsluster Chaussee with a branch line to the Krueger Kaserne, as well as the telephone lines from the Krueger Kaserne, the Moltke Kaserne, the Adolf Hitler Kaserne and Camp Zippendorf converged at a five pole terminal distribution center located at Ludwigsluster Chaussee.

15. On 3 January, the Moltke Kaserne on Ludwigslusterstrasse was occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, and uniformed Soviet women with the same epaulets and insignia. T-34 tank [redacted] was seen in the barracks yard. Another 25 tanks of an unidentified type were observed through the open doors of the garages. [redacted]

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16. In early December 1951, [redacted] General Inauri (fnu) would move into the renovated residence of the former German airfield commandant at Goerries airfield in early 1952. [redacted] A Soviet employee told source that Rocket Launcher Unit [redacted] with Lieutenant Colonel Kirilov (fnu) in the Hindenburg Kaserne had been received many replacements and occupied additional quarters which were vacated by engineer Unit Zimon in late November 1951. The commanding officer and the deputy commander [redacted] were to be billeted in a renovated house at 28 Guestrowerstrasse. The other Soviet-occupied houses on Guestrowerstrasse, Kaethe Kollwitzstrasse and Ricarda Huchstrasse were returned to the German authorities. [redacted]

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Comments.

(1) According to other sources, the Hq IX Itz Rifle Corps moved from the restricted Schlossgarten area to Goerries airfield in late November and early December 1951. [REDACTED]

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(2) The variety of weapons observed at the Hindenburg Kaserne still hinders an attempt to establish the identity of most of the units in this installation. Only the rocket launcher insignia indicate that elements of the 10th Gds RL Regt of the IX Itz Rifle Corps are quartered in the Hindenburg Kaserne. This is to some degree confirmed by the source of paragraph 16. It is unlikely that a unit with 76.2-mm field guns should have come from the Hindenburg Kaserne, because the only unit of the 94th Gds Itz Rifle Div with this type of guns is the 199th Gds Gun Arty Regt which is carried in Wismar. [REDACTED]. Lieutenant Colonel Kirilov (fnu) and Zimon (fnu) are known from previous reports. [REDACTED]

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(3) Paragraph 8 indicates that the Hq 94th Gds Itz Rifle Div moved from the DAF building to the Fritsch Kaserne. Field howitzers of 122 mm are observed in the Fritsch Kaserne for the first time. The ten armored half-track vehicles seen in the Holtke Kaserne are vaguely indicative of the unidentified reconnaissance battalion of the 94th Gds Itz Rifle Div. The number of mortars in the Adolf Hitler Kaserne, as specified in paragraph 10, appears greatly overestimated, as the motorized rifle regiment which is believed to be stationed there has only about 27 mortars. In other respects, the report contains no new information on the Schwerin military post. [REDACTED]

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(5) There have been no indications that Major General Insauri (fnu), carried as commanding general of the 18th Recz Div, should have been appointed to a commanding position in Schwerin. [REDACTED]

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